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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE


Medical Officer of Health

For the Year Ended December 31st, 1925.

PONTEFRAC :

F. H. W. Holmes, Printer, "Advertiser" Office.

1926.



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Medical Officer's Report

For the Year ended December 31st, 1925.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Pontefract.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present, for your information and consideration, my Fourth Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year 1925.

I.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

- (a) The area of the Borough as given by the Registrar General is 4,078 acres (land and inland water together). The approximate acreages of the Wards are as follows:—

No. 1 West Ward	...	...	1,198
No. 2 North	...	...	640
No. 3 East	...	...	707
No. 4 South	...	...	861
No. 5 Mill Hill	...	...	623
No. 6 Central	...	...	49

Total ... 4,078

- (b) **Population.** Census 1921—16,790. Estimated 1925: For Birth Rate—18,400; for Death Rate—17,900.

- (c) **Physical Features.**

The area is of an undulating nature, the centre of the town standing high. The highest point is in the South. Two small watercourses carry away the surface water which does not enter the sewers in a northerly direction. The land is pasture and arable.

- (d) The number of inhabited houses is:—1921—3,345; 1925—3,446.

- (e) The number of families or separate occupiers is:—1921—3,317; estimated 1925—3,650.

- (f) The Rateable Value of the Borough is £116,079.

The sum represented by a penny rate is £395.

The District Rate Assessable Value is £98,790.

- (g) **Social Conditions.**

The principal occupation of the inhabitants is mining. There are a number of factories for the manufacturing of

sweets and licorice cakes, employing mostly female labour. Other works carried on in the Borough are malting, fat refining, fellmongering, brush and mat making and market gardening.

During the year ended May 31st, 1926, 151 cases were treated as in-patients and 823 cases were treated as out-patients at the Pontefract Infirmary (i.e., from the Borough).

(h) **Vital Statistics.**

(1) **Births:—**

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate ...	224	203	427
Illegitimate ...	10	6	16
<hr/>			
Total Births ...	234	209	439

Birth rate per 1,000 total population 24.07. 1924, 26.7; 1923, 26.9; 1922, 27.6; 1921, 30.5.

(2) The number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth—Nil.

(3) Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 births:—1925, 83.52. Previous years:—1924, 103.1; 1923, 107.6; 1922, 112.4; 1921, 121.3.

This year they consist of 16 males, 21 females, 1 illegitimate.

(4) Deaths from Measles (all ages), nil; rate per 1,000, 0.

(5) Ditto Whooping Cough, 8; rate per 1,000, 0.45.

(6) Ditto Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age), 8, rate per 1,000, 18.06.

(7) **Deaths.**—The total number of registered deaths after transfers, 209 (males 101, females 108); death rate (all causes) 11.67; 1924, 14.5; 1923, 12.7; 1922, 14.58; 1921, 14.8.

There has been no noteworthy cause of sickness or invalidity during the year. The number of cases of whooping cough have increased, and the death rate has been comparatively high. Deaths of children under 2 years of age from diarrhoea remain too high.

The death rate (all ages) is very low compared with the previous 4 years in the Borough.

The most pleasing feature is the reduction in the death rate of children under 1 year of age, which this year is 83.52 compared with 103.1 last year.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospitals.

1. Tuberculosis.—Cases can be taken into the Pontefract Union Infirmary, the new wing having special advantages for open-air treatment; no other beds locally. Sanatoria as used by the West Riding County Council.
2. Maternity.—No local beds, but an arrangement has been made by the Local Authority with the M.O.H. Wakefield, for the admission of necessary cases to the Wakefield Maternity Hospital. Advantage has been taken of this arrangement.
3. Children.—The Pontefract General Infirmary. Beds available for use, 40.
4. Fever.—The Joint Isolation Hospital, Baghill. This hospital is jointly supported by three Authorities, Pontefract Borough, Pontefract Rural District Council and Knottingley District Council. There are three main blocks of buildings accommodating Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Enteric Fever respectively. Available beds about 50; also administrative block.
5. Smallpox.—The Sherburn-in-Elmet Joint Hospital.

Unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children, the Pontefract Union, to which is attached the Cottage Homes, Carleton. The Haven, which is a voluntary Institution.

Ambulance Facilities.

1. Infectious Cases.—The motor ambulance of the Joint Isolation Hospital, Baghill.
2. Non-Infectious and Accident Cases.—A motor ambulance run by the St. John Ambulance Brigade under a voluntary committee. A grant is made by the Local Authority.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Maternity and Child Welfare, Congregational School, Back Northgate, weekly on Mondays, 3 to 4 p.m.

School Clinics, Baghill School, Walkergate. Minor ailments, daily during school days.—Dental Clinic, twice weekly.—Ophthalmic Clinic, once a fortnight.—All provided by Local Authority.

Tuberculosis Dispensary, Linden Terrace, Tuesdays and Fridays.—Provided by W.R.C.C.

Venereal Diseases, Clayton Hospital.—Provided by Leeds General Infirmary.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health: W. T. Hessel, M.B., Ch.B., part-time.

Sanitary Inspector: A. B. Jackson, whole time.

Health Visitor: L. Tomlinson, C.M.B., Fully Trained Medical and Surgical Nurse, whole time.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

The Pontefract and District Nursing Association by the aid of qualified Nurse and assistant Nurse unqualified. This is maintained purely by voluntary subscriptions. The cases under treatment are as requested by the medical practitioners of the Borough.

Three midwives practise in the Borough. They receive no subsidy from the Local Authority.

Legislation in Force.

1. Adoptive Acts:—

The Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.

The Private Street Works Act, 1892.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Parts II, III., IV., V., and X.

The Public Libraries Acts.

The Baths and Washhouses Acts.

Bye-Laws.

New Streets and Buildings, 5th Feb., 1924.

Good Rule and Government, 15th Feb., 1905, 24th Nov., 1908, and 5th Sept., 1912.

Drainage of Existing Buildings, 3rd Oct., 1908.

Preventing the Waste, Undue Consumption, Misuse or Contamination of Water, 3rd Oct., 1908.

Nuisances, 1st Dec., 1908.

Slaughter Houses, 14th Jan., 1909.

Common Lodging Houses, 12th Feb., 1909.

Offensive Trades, 9th Feb., 1925.

Education (School Attendance), 10th Oct., 1907.

Employment of Children and Young Persons, 1st Oct., 1921.

Public Baths, 12th Nov., 1923.

Free Library, 26th Sept., 1924.

Omnibuses, 9th Feb., 1925.

Regulations—

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, 1st May, 1902.

Cemetery, 10th Jan., 1924.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**Water.**

A constant supply of pure water has been supplied during the year from the Borough's Waterworks at Roall, situated about nine miles away. The pressure of water in the higher levels of the town is not yet satisfactory. There are still in the Borough 438 houses supplied from 84 standpipes. The water is of a hard character and has no plumbo-solvent action. There has been no necessity for action in respect of any form of contamination.

Rivers and Streams.

Complaints have been received regarding the pollution of small streams by the overflow from cesspools and settling tanks in the area. Every effort has been made to remedy any possible pollution by the more frequent emptying of cesspools and tanks.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Sewage Works have worked satisfactorily during the year though they are still taxed excessively by the surface water carried by the sewers during storm periods. The only remedy for this would be a separate surface water scheme for the whole or part of the area. In the new building schemes in progress and contemplated only a proportion of the roof water is allowed to enter the sewer. As more houses are erected and more privy conversions completed the necessity for some surface water scheme will become more urgent.

To enable the necessary privy conversions to be done in certain areas the sewers will require to be investigated and altered if necessary; this needs early attention. A drainage scheme for the Toll Hill district has been adopted. This scheme will abolish 75 cesspools and will cater for the efficient drainage of further developments in that area.

Closet Accommodation.

No. of Pail or Tub Closets	...	...	20
No. of Privies with Covered Middens	...	...	357
No. of Water Closets	..	...	2651
No. of Waste Water Closets	...	...	240
No. of privies reconstructed as W.Cs.	...	...	48

No. of additional closets provided for old property 8

No. of Closets constructed for new houses ... 54

Privy conversions are taking place as far as possible where the more insanitary types of privy accommodation prevail, and where the existing sewers are sufficient to deal with the resulting addition to their flow.

Scavenging.

The removal and disposal of house refuse and shop refuse, also the cleansing of privies, ashpits and cesspools has been carried out directly by the Council. 5101 loads have been dealt with at the Destructor, and 6,421 loads at the Refuse Tips. An old quarry has been purchased for use as a refuse tip to replace the unsatisfactory tipping arrangement of last year. The tipping has been carried out strictly in accordance with the latest Ministry of Health Regulations (i.e., in layers covered with soil). This is now satisfactory.

A scheme has been approved by the Council for extensions to the present Refuse Destructor, which, when carried out, will make it possible to consume by burning practically the whole of the Town's refuse.

Substitution of moveable ashbins for fixed receptacles has taken place in a few instances.

Many covered middens are in a state of bad repair. This and the system and times of emptying require a closer supervision than is at present available.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

- (a) The number and nature of inspections made during the year 425. Nuisances found 165.

A detailed list is shown in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

- (b) The number of notices served during the year:—Informal 112, Statutory 52.

- (c) The result of the service of such notices:—Complied with Informal 92, Statutory 43.

Smoke Abatement.

Complaints of nuisances arising from smoke of factory chimneys have been dealt with. Notices have been served, and the nuisance is now abated.

Schools.

The Schools of the Borough have been inspected as to their sanitary condition and water supply. Recommendations have or are being carried out. Scholars at school have been

inspected for possible carriers of scarlet fever, and disinfection of schools and material have been carried out by the Sanitary Inspector at my direction.

HOUSING.

1 General Housing Conditions in the Area.

There is still a shortage of houses, and it is estimated that a further 500 houses will be required to relieve this. During the year 18 new houses have been built by the Council and 38 by private persons, which ranked for the subsidy. The measures contemplated to meet the shortage are the erection of 56 houses on the Love Lane Site, and a further 274 on the Baghill Site.

No important change in population is anticipated in the near future.

2 Overcrowding.

Numerous cases of overcrowding have been discovered during the year. Most of the cases have been those of workpeople who have come recently to the Town and have been unable to obtain a house and have taken rooms in houses which already contained sufficient persons. In other cases in small houses families have increased and grown up, also the children have married, the houses becoming inadequate often from a moral point of view. Preference in the letting of Council houses has been given in these cases.

3 Fitness of houses.

The general standard of housing in the area is comparatively good, but in some of the small yards and certain areas there is very old property often in a very bad state of repair.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

- (a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)), 54.
- (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:—
 - (i) By the Local Authority, 18.
 - (ii) By other bodies or persons, 36.

1 Unfit Dwellinghouses:—

Inspection:—(1) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts), 73.

(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District)

Regulations, 1910, or the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925, 73.

- (3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, 1.
- (4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, 12.

2. Remedy of defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority, or their officers, 37.

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs, 12.
- (2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
 - (a) By Owners, 6.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners, 0.
- (3) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention of close, 0.

B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied, 61.
- (2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices, 24.
 - (a) By Owners, 24.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners, 0.

C—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Acts, 1925.

- (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders, 1.
- (2) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were made, 1.
- (3) Number of Dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwellinghouses having been rendered fit, 0.
- (4) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made, 0.
- (5) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders, 0.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

1 Milk Supply.

This appears adequate and the distribution satisfactory. There are 21 cowkeepers who are purveyors and 8 retail purveyors of milk. The cowsheds and milkshops have been inspected frequently.

2 Meat.

1. Meat inspection is carried out at the slaughterhouses either during the slaughter or as soon as possible afterwards. The carrying out of this efficiently is rendered difficult by the number and widely spread distribution of the slaughterhouses.

Slaughterhouses.	1920.	Jan., 1925.	Dec., 1925.
Registered ...	2	2	2
Licensed ...	13	13	14
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...	15	15	16

Other Foods.

Houses and Shops where ice cream is manufactured have been inspected. A constant supervision is required, and some form of registration should be required for the making and retailing of ice cream.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

A Review of the prevalence since 1920.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	— 1925 —	Deaths
				Total	†	
Small Pox ...	—	—	1	—	—	0
Diphtheria ...	7	6	3	10	6	4
Scarlet Fever ...	9	30	51	58	25	23
Enteric Fever ...	13	6	2	6	1	0
Puerperal Fever ...	2	1	2	2	1	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	1	1	—	2	—
Erysipelas ...	9	5	11	9	9	—
Tuberculosis—						
Pulmonary	} 47	33	20	40	55	—
Non-Pulmonary		4	5	9	11	—
Encephalitis Lethargica					2	0

† Removed to Hospital.

A decrease in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever is observed from the past 3 years, and an increase in the number of cases of Tuberculosis notified.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5		1	2	1			1	1
10	2	1		1		1	1	
15	4	2		5	1	1		
20	3	5				1		
25	5	5			1	1		
35	7	4	1		1	3		
45	4	2				2		
55	7			1	1			1
65 and upwards	3				3			1
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	35	20	3	8	7	9	2	3

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Notification of Births Act was adopted by the Borough April 1st, 1925. A record of visits paid by the Health Visitor for the period April 1st to Dec. 31st, 1925, is:—

	First Visits	Total Visits
To Expectant Mothers ...	20	44
To Infants under 1 year ...	321	802
To Children 1 to 5 years ...		5295

The work of the Health Visitor has been excellent in every way. The Clinic held each Monday afternoon has been attended by myself and the Health Visitor and members of the Voluntary Welfare Committee. The numbers attending have shown a marked increase, and more of the type of mothers and babies one wishes to see and can be of assistance to have atten-

ded. The help of the Voluntary Committee and of the Midwives practising has been a great assistance.

The Health Visitor's report is attached.

The report of the Sanitary Inspector is attached.

Statistical Tables are attached.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W. T. HESSEL,
Medical Officer of Health.

CAUSES OF DEATH		Males	Females
Enteric Fever	...		1
Small Pox	...		
Measles	...		
Scarlet Fever	...		
Whooping Cough	...	2	6
Diphtheria	...		
Influenza	...	3	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	1	
Meningococcal Meningitis	...		
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	7	9
Other Tuberculous Diseases		2	3
Cancer, Malignant Disease		6	15
Rheumatic Fever	...		
Diabetes	...		
Cerebral Haemorrhage. etc.		7	2
Heart Disease	...	4	9
Arterio-sclerosis	...	2	2
Bronchitis	...	16	18
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	10	7
Other Respiratory Diseases			
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...		
Diarrhoea &c (under 2 years)		4	4
Appendicitis and Typhlitis			
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	2	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis		1	6
Puerperal Sepsis	...		
Other Accidents & Diseases of Pregnancy & Parturition			
Congenital debility & Malformation, premature Birth		8	7
Suicide	...	1	
Other Deaths from Violence		10	1
Other Defined Diseases	...	15	16
Causes ill-defined or unknown			
From all Causes	Totals	101	108
Deaths of Infants } under 1 year }	Total	16	21
	Illegitimate	—	1

Causes of, and ages at Death, during the Year 1925.

CAUSES.	ALL AGES	Under 1 year	1—2 year	2—5 years	5—15 years	15—25 years	25—45 years	45—60 years	60 & upwards
Enteric Fever ...	1					1			
Small Pox ...									
Measles ...									
Scarlet Fever ...									
Whooping Cough ...	8	4	2	2					
Diphtheria ...									
Influenza ...	4		2					1	1
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	1					1			
Meningococcal Meningitis ...									
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	16				2	4	4	3	3
Other Tuberculous Diseases	5		1	1	2			1	
Cancer, Malignant Disease	21						4	7	10
Rheumatic Fever ...									
Diabetes ...									
Cerebral Haemorrhage. etc.	9							3	6
Heart Disease ...	13						2	6	5
Arterio-sclerosis ...	4								4
Bronchitis ...	34	4	4			1		5	20
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	17	6	4	3	1			2	1
Other Respiratory Diseases									
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...									
Diarrhœa &c (under 2 years)	8	6	2						
Appendicitis and Typhlitis									
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	3							1	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	7				1		1	3	2
Puerperal Sepsis ...									
Other Accidents & Diseases of Pregnancy & Parturition									
Congenital debility & Malformation, premature Birth	15	15							
Suicide ...	1					1			
Other Deaths from Violence	11			1	2		6	1	1
Other Defined Diseases ...	31	2			1	1	1	5	21
Causes ill-defined or unknown									
TOTAL	209	37	15	7	9	9	18	38	76

Analysis of Infantile Deaths, 1925.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 3 months	3 months & under 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 to 12 months	TOTAL.
All Causes Certified									
Un-Certified									
Small-Pox ...									
Measles ...									
Scarlet Fever ...									
Diphtheria and Croup ...									
Whooping Cough ...							3	1	4
Diarrhoea (all forms) ...									
Enteritis Muco					1	1	1	2	5 }
Gastro							1		1 }
Gastritis ...									
Premature Birth ...	6	2	1		1		1		11
Congenital Defects ...	1	2			1				4
Injury at Birth ...									
Want of Breast Milk, Starvation ...									
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ...	1								1
Tuberculous Meningitis ...									
Tuberculous Peritonitis ...									
Tabes Mesenterica ...									
Other Tuberculous Diseases									
Erysipelas ...									
Syphilis ...									
Rickets ...									
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)									
Convulsions ...						1			1
Bronchitis ...					3	1			4
Laryngitis ...									
Pneumonia ...					1	1	1	3	6
Suffocation, overlaying ...									
Other Causes ...									
TOTAL	8	4	1		7	4	7	6	37

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1925.

	Birth Rate per 1000 total population	Annual Death-rate per 1000 population.								Rate per 1000 Births		Percentage of Total Deaths			
		All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small Pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths (under 1 year)	Causes of Death certified by Registered Medical Practitioners	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death
England and Wales ...	18.3	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.03	0.15	0.07	0.32	0.47	8.4	75	92.1	6.9	1.0
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London ...	18.8	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.17	0.03	0.18	0.09	0.30	0.43	10.8	79	92.1	7.3	0.6
157 Small Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000—50,000) ..	18.3	11.2	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.02	0.14	0.06	0.31	0.38	7.6	74	93.0	5.9	1.1
London ...	18.0	11.7	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.19	0.11	0.23	0.46	10.6	67	91.1	8.9	0.0
Pontefract ...	24.07	11.67	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.45	0.00	0.22	0.61	18.06	83.52	90.0	10.0	0.0

TABLE C.

NUISANCE INSPECTIONS.

Total No. of Inspections made in 1925, for Nuisances only, 495.

Nuisances reported in 1925, 165; in hand end of 1924, 40.

Total needing abatement, 30; abated during 1925, 135; outstanding end of 1925, 30.

Notices served (Informal) 113, complied with, 92.

Ditto (Statutory) 52, complied with 43.

Total number of Summonses or other legal proceedings, 1.

Filthy houses, cleansing of, 6.

Any notices served under Sec. 46 of P.H.A. 1875 (or any other Act)?—6.

	No. in District	No. on Register	Inspections made
Common Lodging Houses	5	5	12
Knackers' Yards	1	1	6
Offensive Trades	3	3	15

Have the Council declared any other processes to be offensive trades?—Fish frying.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Developments during 1925.—None.

Developments still needed as to (a) Want of sewers—Townville and Ackworth Road.

(b) Improvement of defective sewers.—None.

Sewage Disposal Works (a) Any inadequacy.—No.

(b) Any complaints.—None.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

No. of Privies with open middens.—0.

No. of Pail or Tub Closets—20.

No. of Privies with covered middens—357; No. of Water Closets—2651; Waste-water Closets—240.

No. of Privies re-constructed during 1925—(a) as w.cs.—48.

No. of Additional Closets provided for old property in 1925 (a) W.Cs.—8.

No. of Closets constructed in 1925 for new houses (a) as w.cs.—54.

SCAVENGING.

Any change during 1925?—None.

Performed by (a) Council—Yes; (b) Contractor—No; (c) Owners or Occupiers—No.

How is refuse disposed of?—No. of loads to (a) Destructor 5,101; (b) Tips, 6,421; (c) Farmers, none.

Total annual cost, £5072/18/3.

Any utilisation of waste material?—Yes. If so, what?—Glass and scrap iron.

WATER SUPPLY.

Any developments during 1925?—No.

Restricted in any way?—No.

Any general insufficiency, and where?—Poor pressure in high levels.

Any action in regard to unsatisfactory quality, and where?—None.

Any new sources added?—No.

Any disused sources re-used?—None.

MILK SUPPLY.

Are Two Registers being kept as required by Section 2 (3) of the 1922 Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act?—(a) For Retailers; (b) for Cowkeepers or Wholesale Traders?—Yes.

Have any Licences been granted under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, to distributors of:—
“Certified” milk—0; “Grade A”—0; “Grade A (Tuberculin Tested)”—0; “Grade A (Pasteurised)”—0; “Pasteurised”—0.

Have you had samples of Graded Milk Tested?—No.

Have any retailers been removed from the Register?—No.

No. of Samples taken by Officers of S.A. for analysis under F. and D. Acts—0. No. adulterated—0.

No. ditto for bacteriological examination.—0.

Any instance of disease attributed to milk in 1925?—None.

No. of Milk Cows kept in district—Approximately 200.

No. of Cowkeepers in district producing and selling milk—21. No. Registered—21.

No. of Retail Milk Sellers who are also Cowkeepers—21.

No. who are Milk Retailers only—8.

Total No. of Retail Milk Sellers Registered—29.

Total No. of Cowsheds—21. Total No. of inspections in 1925—8. Cowkeepers—21; Retailers—8.

Date of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Regulations—1902. Any legal action?—No.

Any inspection or other action by Districts to which Milk is sent?—None.

OTHER FOODS.

No. of Samples (other than Milk) taken by Officer of S.A. for examination under the Food and Drugs Acts in 1925—0. No. adulterated—0.

Any special examination of Milk for Dirt?—No.

No. of seizures of unsound food—14.

Any Public Abattoir?—No.

No. of Slaughterhouses—16. Registered—2. Licensed—14. Unsatisfactory, structurally, or in bad position?—0.

No. of times each Slaughterhouse inspected?—Weekly.

No. of Prosecutions (a) Food and Drugs—0; (b) Unsound Food—0; (c) re Slaughter Houses—0.

Bakehouses, No. 11. Any underground?—No. Total No. of Inspections—22.

SCHOOLS.

No. of Schools in District—11. No. visited by M.O.H.—11.

Action taken—Disinfection.

Schools closed by M.O.H.—None.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

No. of smoke observations taken—8. No. of Cautions—6. Legal Notices—2. Summonses—None.

No. of Workshops—40. No. of times each Workshop inspected—1. Total inspections—40.

Any Industrial Welfare Workers appointed—None.

ADOPTIVE ACTS in force in District.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890—Yes.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890.—Yes.

Ditto 1907.—2, 3, 4, 5, 10.

Private Street Works Act, 1892.—Yes.

BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS in force in the District.

Prevention of Nuisances, 1st Dec., 1908.

Common Lodging Houses, 12th Feb., 1909.

New Streets and Buildings, 5th Feb., 1924.

Alteration of Buildings, 5th Feb., 1924.

Slaughter Houses, 16th Jan., 1909.

Baths and Wash-Houses, 12th Nov., 1923

Cemeteries, 10th Jan., 1924.

Offensive Trades, 9th Feb., 1925.

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Diseases specially prevalent in 1925?—None.

Any diseases specially added to notifiable list?—None.

Any influences threatening the health of the District?—
None.

Any undue prevalence of Venereal Diseases?—No.

HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

General: Accident—Pontefract Infirmary, Southgate.

Infectious, General—Baghill Joint Hospital.

Smallpox—Sherburn-in-Elmet Joint Hospital.

Maternity—Arrangement with M.O.H. Wakefield.

Any arrangements for nursing Puerperal Fever cases?
No.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Is house disinfected?—Yes. When?—On removal of patient.

MORTUARIES. What accommodation—
for accidents—Yes, two bodies.

SANITARY STAFF.

What is the present Annual Salary of the M.O.H.—£100.

Name of Sanitary Inspector—A. B. Jackson.

Annual Salary as Inspector—£200 plus bonus.

Other appointments held—Shop Inspector.

Salary for such other appointments—Included.

Any Assistants?—No.

Is Staff sufficient?—Will require assistance on account of increase in duties.

Does M.O.H. receive copies of Memos. and Circulars distributed by Ministry of Health?—Yes.

CLINICS. Any suggestions—

Venereal Diseases—How advertised and if any difficulty in reaching nearest—Medical practitioners are supplied with admittance cards by W.R.C.C.

TABLE D.

Summary of Housing Work during 1925.**Houses with defects not disposed of at end of 1924.**

Houses not reasonably fit for habitation. Section 28, 1919 ;
Section 10, 1923—1.

Houses (recorded under "Housing") with minor defects
(Public Health Acts)—18.

Houses totally unfit. (Sections 17 and 18) 1909—0.

Houses Inspected for "Housing defects" in 1925 under Acts and Regulations—

Total inspected and recorded—73.

Houses found satisfactory on inspection—0.

Houses needing further action—73.

Houses not reasonably Fit—

Houses found with defects—12.

Houses of this class remedied without formal notice—0.

Houses in regard to which formal notices were served—12.

Houses made fit after formal notice—6.

Houses in respect of which the Council executed or were
executing work in default of owner—0.

Houses in regard to which owner elected to close house in-
stead of complying with notices—0.

Action under Public Health Acts in cases of houses with minor defects not remediable under Section 28, 1919 ; Section 10 of 1923 ; and Section 1 of 1925—

House with defects—61.

Houses remedied without service of formal notice—37.

Houses in regard to which formal notices were served—24.

Houses made satisfactory after formal notice—9.

Unfit houses—

Houses found to be totally unfit—1.

Houses closed voluntarily—0.

Unfit houses remedied without formal notice—0.

Houses represented to Council for Closing Orders—1.

Houses in respect of which closing orders were made—1.

Houses closed after service of closing order—1.

Houses made fit and closing order determined by Council—0.

Houses demolished voluntarily—0.

Houses for which demolition orders were made by Council
—0.

Houses demolished compulsorily—0.

Appeals—

Appeals against notices under Section 28, 1919, or Section 10, 1923, or Section 3, 1925—0.

Appeals against closing orders under Section 17, 1909; Section 14 (4), 1925—0.

Appeals under Section 17 (6) 1909, or Section 11 (6) 1925, refusal to determine closing orders—0.

Appeals against demolition orders Section 18, 1909; Section 14, 1925—0.

Houses with defects not disposed of at end of 1925—

Houses not reasonably fit for habitation. Section 28, 1919; Section 10, 1923; Section 1, 1925—6.

Houses (recorded under “Housing”) with minor defects. (Public Health Acts)—15.

Houses totally unfit. (Sections 17 and 18) 1909; Sections 9, 11, 14, 1925—0.

Other Action in regard to Housing—

Total number of houses in district—3446.

Number of working-class houses—2666.

General standard compared with that of the Ministry of Health in Manual Vol. I., 1919—Fair.

OBSTRUCTIVE BUILDINGS.—Any building represented by M.O.H. under Sec. 38 (1) of 1890, or Sec. 19, 1925, Act?—None.

Any building represented by Local Government Electors under Sec. 38 (2) of 1890 Act, or by a Justice of the Peace, Parish Council, or 4 Government Electors under Section 10, 1925 Act?—None.

UNHEALTHY AREAS.—Any representations under Part I. or II. of the 1890 Act or part II. of 1925 Act? If so give particulars—No.

RE-CONSTRUCTION SCHEMES.—Have L.A. directed any to be prepared under Sec. 39 of 1890 Act or part II. of the 1925 Act?—No.

CONVERSION OF HOUSES.—Any houses acquired for division into separate tenements, under the 1919 Act or of closed houses under Section 4, 1925 Act? If so, give particulars—No.

PENALTY ON RE-LETTING HOUSES ORDERED TO BE CLOSED.—Any action under Sec. 12 of 1925 Act?—No.

UNFIT HOUSES.—Any complaints by Local Government Electors under Section 31 of 1890 Act as amended by the 1923 Act or Section 10, 1925?—No.

Do. Do.—Any complaints by Parish Councils under Section 6 (2) of the Local Government Act, 1894?—No.

Any action under Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899 to 1923?—No.

Any scarcity of houses? If so, where?—Yes, general.

Any overcrowding in houses, and where?—Yes, in many of the smaller houses.

Any special activity in house building, and where?—Yes. Schemes by the Council for 56 and 274 houses respectively.

Any regulations made in respect of underground sleeping rooms under Section 17 (7) 1909 Act, or under Section 18, 1925 Act?—No.

Total number of houses built in the district under State-aided and all conditions in 1925—

(a) Working Class dwellings—54.

State-aided Housing Schemes—

B.—SCHEME UNDER 1923 ACT—

Is assistance given to private individuals? (a) By lump sum?—Yes. If so, how much?—£76/18/6.

Number of houses completed by Local Authority under this scheme in 1925—18.

Do. do. by Private Persons do.—36.

C.—SCHEME UNDER 1924 ACT.—

Number of houses provisionally approved by Ministry—56.

Total number of houses provided under all State-aided schemes in 1925—54.

Town Planning—

Have Council joined a Regional Town Planning Committee in 1925?—No.

Have Council passed a resolution in 1925 deciding to prepare a scheme?—No.

Any scheme contemplated?—No.

Have Council propounded a scheme in 1925?—No.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Report on the Work during the Period April 1st to Dec. 31st,
1925.

1. Maternity.

During the nine months included in the period 288 birth enquiries were completed. No difficulties were experienced in this part of the work, and no objection to the visits made was expressed. In fact, at times when it was not possible to make a visit immediately after the birth requests for a visit have been made.

During this period it was found possible to commence antenatal work, and considerable use has been made of the service.

Twenty antenatal patients were registered during the period and 44 antenatal visits were made, while in addition many consultations were given at the clinic. Whatever prejudice against this service may have existed previously seems to have broken down, and it is usual to find patients anxious to receive treatment and advice.

Two cases treated illustrate the benefits obtainable from the service.

(1) A case in which the two previous pregnancies had resulted in still births. The patient was under observation and treatment for $7\frac{1}{2}$ months of her last pregnancy, a perfectly normal birth resulting.

(2) A case in which there had been previously several still-born children and none born alive. The patient was examined during the antenatal period, and as a result sent to Hospital for a Cæsarian Section. By this means the child was able to be born alive, and is now well.

Child Welfare.

During the period under consideration 5,375 revisits were

made. The first visit after the birth of the child was always attempted to be made sufficiently early to make it possible to advise the mother to feed the child naturally, but, in spite of this and in spite of the fact that advice on feeding was always given on revisits where the case seemed to need it, there are many cases of rickets among the children under five years of age. It is probable that much of this would be prevented by heliotherapeutic treatment, and the provision of a lamp seems advisable.

The weekly clinic seems to be a service that is much appreciated both by mothers and expectant mothers. The biggest number present at one clinic during the period was 69. When the clinic occurs on a wet day the number falls considerably partly owing to the lack of facilities for housing of perambulators.

L. TOMLINSON.

Borough of Pontefract.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Year ending 31st December, 1925.

The following is a summary and statement of Sanitary Work carried out during the Year:—

Ashpits fitted with new doors	37
Water Closets repaired	19
Blocked Drains liberated	18
Sink Pipes repaired	12
Defective Dustbins replaced	30
Defective Roofs to houses repaired	14
Defective Eaves Spouting repaired	12
Privy Middens repaired	8
Defective Drains opened and relaid	4
Dry Ashpits repaired, roofs, etc.	8
New Sinks in houses	8
Filthy Houses cleansed	6
Nuisances from Smoke	6
Nuisances found	165
Inspections made	495
Notices served, informal	113
Complied with ditto	92
Statutory Notices	52
Ditto complied with	43
Outstanding end of year	30

Privy Conversions.

Notices have been served for the conversion of Privies into water closets on the following properties:—

Love Lane Terrace, 7 privies and 4 additional closets.

Spring Gardens, 22 privies.

Paver's Yard, 6 privies and 4 additional closets.

Alms Houses: Newgate, Micklegate and Trinity Street,
4 privies.

Converted without notices, 2 privies.

Total 41.

Part of these conversions are not completed, and will be carried over into another year.

Armstrong Terrace, additional water closets, 6.

Notices have been served for repairs to the following properties :—

Fox Terrace	.....	12 Houses.
Armstrong Terrace	.....	12 „
Darlington's Yard	.....	14 „
Closing Order made, No. 10 Dar-		
lington's Yard	.....	1 House.

In this class of house one recognizes the fact that to effect improvement would involve a larger cost than the present houses are worth, and to avoid closing orders repairs are accepted so as to make the houses reasonably fit for occupation.

Overcrowding.

There were 18 new houses built to complete the Willow Park and King's Mead Site, and 36 by private persons which ranked for State assistance.

With regard to the number of families in need of houses a further 400 to 500 are necessary, part of which will no doubt be relieved when the proposed 274 new houses are built on the Baghill Site.

Milk Supply.

There are 21 cowkeepers who are also purveyors and 8 retail purveyors of milk.

The cowsheds are in good structural condition.

Nearly the whole of the Town's supply is produced in the Borough.

Milkshops and purveyors were frequently inspected.

There were no applications for licenses to sell milk under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1922.

The approximate number of milk cows is 200. They are habitually turned out to graze in the Park for six months of the year.

Slaughter Houses.

There are 16 in the Borough which are well conducted and are generally in a good condition.

Public Health Meat Regulations.

The slaughter houses are visited during the slaughter of animals, or as soon after as possible, to examine the carcasses. The average slaughtering is 35 beasts, 40 pigs, and 26 sheep per week. Three beasts have been condemned which were found to be tubercular. Also 6 pigs were destroyed at the Destructor.

The Butchers fully appreciate the regulations, and are prepared to give every assistance in carrying them out.

Other food stuffs found to be unfit: 19 Couple Rabbits, 80 lbs. of Beef, 8 sacks of Gooseberries, 9 boxes of Pears and 40 lbs. of Apples.

Offensive Trades.

There are three in the Borough: Two fat and bone works, one tripe dresser. They are well conducted, but at times when fat is being rendered it is somewhat offensive in the summer months, and also from the transit of offals from the Station. This could be overcome by having a siding put in the C.W.S. Works.

Workshops.

There are eleven bakehouses and 30 other workshops.

Three of these were found to be overdue with regard to the lime washing. This was carried out after informal notice.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are five in the Town. All are kept clean, with the exception of one. The keeper was cautioned, after which an improvement was made.

Rats and Mice Orders.

Notices have been sent out to Farmers and others during the Rat Week, and notices inserted in the "Guide," drawing attention of occupiers of premises that were likely to be infested with rats. Good results were obtained by the laying of poisons, etc., and people are most anxious to be rid of the vermin.

Shop Acts.

There are still people whom it is necessary to keep under observation who have small mixed businesses where sweets and chocolates may be sold until 9-30, otherwise the Act is fairly well observed.

Water Supply.

There is a constant supply of pure water, which is obtained from a deep well sunk in the new Red Sandstone situate at Roall, about nine miles from Pontefract.

The pressure to all houses, with the exception of a few in the high level area is good. In the latter houses the pressure during the day time is poor, and to overcome this supply tanks of 100 gallons capacity have been fixed in the roofs. The Council contemplate erecting a Water Tower, and when this is carried out the whole area of supply will be satisfactory.

The Council have obtained sanction to a loan of £65,000 for the purpose of duplicating the pumping main from Roall to Pontefract, and also promoted a Provisional Order for the sinking of a new well situate about one mile from the present works. When the above works are completed an additional supply of 1,000,000 gallons per day will be available. This will be adequate to provide for all future developments.

The whole of the population is supplied with Town's water.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Sewage Works continues to work satisfactorily, and works have been carried out for eliminating some of the surface water which during times of storm was formerly discharged at the works. The proposed houses on the Baghill New Building Site which the Corporation have recently purchased, are to be drained partially on the separate system, that is to say, all surface water from the streets and roofs and the fronts of the houses will be dealt with by a separate system of surface water drains. The rain from the roofs at the rear of the houses will be discharged into the foul water sewers to ensure that they are properly flushed.

Refuse Collection—Disposal.

The Corporation have recently purchased an old quarry for use as a refuse tip. This tip has been in operation since the 1st November, 1925, and tipping has been carried out strictly in accordance with the latest regulations of the Ministry of Health (i.e., in layers, each layer covered with soil).

A scheme has also been approved by the Council for extensions to the Refuse Destructor. When these extensions are completed it will be possible to consume by burning practically the whole of the Town's refuse.

Infectious Diseases.

	Total	
Scarlet Fever	25	... 23 removed to Hospital.
Diphtheria	6	... 4 ,,
Enteric	1	... 0 ,,
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		2 Treated at home.
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	55	
Ditto—Non-Pulmonary	11	

Ashpit Cleansing (including Ash Bins)

No. of loads to Destructor	4155
Ditto to Tips	6341
	<hr/>
Total ...	10496

Trade Refuse.

No. of loads to Destructor	946
Ditto to Tip	80
	<hr/>
Total ...	1026

Cost of Collection and Disposal.

† Refuse Destructor	£1382/8/10
* Ashpit Cleansing	£3394/19/2
§ Trade Refuse	£295/10/3
	<hr/>
Total ...	£5072/18/3

Average cost per load: 8/9 $\frac{3}{4}$.

NOTE.—Increases accounted for by:

† Repairs to Destructor.

* 3d. per hour increase in wages for night men including back pay (£340), plus £63 for Orchard Head Tip.

§ Previous report only part of a year for trade refuse, from 13th June, 1924.

Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances):—

Factories (including Factory Laundries)	15
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)...	25
	<hr/>
Total ...	40

Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Want of Cleanliness (limewashing)—Found 3, remedied 3.

A. B. JACKSON.

